



No Data

1771/IFW

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re the Application of:

ABRAMS

Serial No.: 09/735,721

Filed: December 13, 2000

Atty. File No.: 4811-9-CIP

For: "FLOCKED TRANSFER AND
ARTICLE OF MANUFACTURE
INCLUDING THE APPLICATION OF
THE TRANSFER BY
THERMOPLASTIC POLYMER FILM")

Group Art Unit: 1771

Examiner: Singh, Arti R.

DECLARATION OF L. BROWN ABRAMS
UNDER 37 CFR § 1.132

"EXPRESS MAIL" MAILING LABEL NUMBER: EY1901017306115
DATE OF DEPOSIT: 1-15-03

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS WITH THE UNITED STATES
POSTAL SERVICE "EXPRESS MAIL POST OFFICE TO
ADDRESSEE" SERVICE UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.10 ON THE DATE
INDICATED ABOVE AND IS ADDRESSED TO THE ASSISTANT
COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, WASHINGTON, D.C. 20231.

TYPED OR PRINTED NAME: Amy Duarte

SIGNATURE: Amy Duarte

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

I, Louis Brown Abrams, being over the age of eighteen, declare as follows:

1. I am the President and founder of High Voltage Graphics, Inc. ("High Voltage").
I founded High Voltage in 1985. I founded High Voltage's sister company, Fiberlok, in 1979.
Fiberlok is a licensee of the above application and is the manufacturer of a MOUSE RUG™ (or
flocked mouse pad). I receive compensation from and am an equity owner and officer of both High
Voltage and Fiberlok. I am also an inventor of the above-referenced invention.

2. This Declaration is being submitted in connection with patent prosecution activities
for the above-referenced patent application.

3. In 1998, Fiberlok sold approximately 25,000 MOUSE RUGS™ and in 1999
approximately 82,000 MOUSE RUGS™. As discussed in detail below, the MOUSE RUGS™
included a flocked upper surface, a textile-coated rubber base, and a fringe material extending
outwardly from opposing peripheral edges of the base.

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4. The manufacturing process used to produce the MOUSE RUGS™ is discussed below.

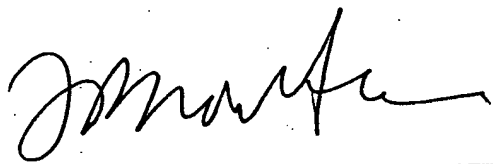
5. To manufacture MOUSE RUGS™, a flock transfer was formed by electrostatically applying flock to a discontinuous carrier sheet coated with a temporary adhesive. A permanent flock adhesive, which was an acrylic adhesive, was applied by screen printing techniques on the free ends of the flock. The flock adhesive holds the flock fibers in place. A permanent textile adhesive or powdered hot-melt adhesive (which is a thermoplastic hot melt adhesive) was applied to the acrylic adhesive. The textile adhesive was used to secure the flock transfer to the textile surface of the textile-coated rubber base material. A continuous roll of each of fringe material, the textile-coated rubber base material, and a pre-formed film of a permanent fringe adhesive (which was a polyester hot melt adhesive) were provided. The textile adhesive on the transfer was contacted with the upper side of the fringe material and the textile-coated surface of the rubber base material. The film of the fringe adhesive was contacted with the lower surface of the fringe material and the textile-coated surface of the rubber base material. The assembly was heated to heat seal the various adhesives and form a laminate. The continuous base material, fringe, and fringe adhesive were then cut to a desired size to form the MOUSE RUG™.

6. I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own are true and all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further, that the statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like, if so made, are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code, and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the subject application or any patent issuing thereon.

Date:

7 Jan 03

By:



L. Brown Abrams